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14 APR 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Inspector General's Survey of the Covert Action Staff

1. Attached is the report of the Inspector General's Survey of the Covert Action Staff. Copies have been sent to the Deputy Director (Plans) and to the Chief, Covert Action Staff via DD/P. A memorandum asking for their comments on the survey is attached for your signature.

2. This report is relatively short, and there are no sections which we think should be emphasized for your special attention. The Staff is composed of functional groups which have their separate functions, and we have discussed these in some detail. The central theme of the report, however, is the need for clarification of the proper role of the Staff and its relations to overall clandestine services objectives. In order to explain the current attitudes, we have briefly traced the evolution of the Staff from its earlier position as a command unit to its present status as a staff element.

3. During the past few years there has been a gradual withdrawal of the Staff from its participation in and detailed review of operational activities. This has created a void, since the Staff was not directed into specific staff duties to replace its earlier

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participation in day-to-day operations. Broad guidance was issued within the Clandestine Services to provide a frame of reference for a staff function, but the Staff's interpretation of this charter has been influenced by its past contact with operations and a general preference of staff personnel for operational duties. As a consequence, the Staff has not yet fully adjusted to its intended staff role and has not developed a fully effective program.

4. The recommendations which we have made are intended to more clearly define the role of the Staff in the various aspects of covert action. To a large degree this must be accomplished through specific requirements being levied by the DD/P, rather than providing the Staff with a broad charter which is subject to an even broader interpretation by the Staff and to challenge from the operational divisions. Further, specific DD/P support is necessary to provide the Staff with a new status, since the trend of recent years has been to lessen the influence of the Staff in its relations with the operating components. At the same time the Staff must develop a competence in its functional specializations so that its views will be respected and sought.

SIGNED

Lyman H. Kirkpatrick
Inspector General

Attachment

cc: DDCI - w/att. - *destroyed March 14, 1962 as with attachment*
DD/P - w/att.
C/CA (via DD/P) - w/att.

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